

February 12, 1976

meet at least once every calendar year. The Commission shall meet at least once every calendar quarter, not year, every calendar quarter. Meetings shall be held on the first Friday, and this is the place where there is a change so there is no question about when the meetings will be held. They will be held on the first Friday of January, April, July and October. If such a day is a holiday, or if the Commission is prevented from meeting on such a day, the meeting shall be held on the following Friday. Special meetings may be called at the request of majority, in this instance it's eight instead of nine. Eight is one-half more than the majority, seven and a half would be exactly equal, so eight does provide for a quorum. Eight members shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall make a report annually to the Legislature and to the Governor as to the work and accomplishments of that Commission. Any member of the Commission who, without a valid excuse, fails to attend the quarterly or special meetings shall be terminated as a member of the Commission and a successor shall be appointed to complete that term of office.

Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I did ask, early in the session, that LB 174 be set for a hearing on the 10th of February. At that time, you'll recall of the problems within the Commission, the firing or the release of the Chairman, the executive director, so it was difficult to make a firm and fair decision of how this should be handled. I have visited with many of the Indians in the state and many of the people who are interested or concerned about the Indians and their problems. I believe this is a fair compromise and it's a fair approach to solve the problem of our Indian Commission.

I might tell you that in working with the Indians many questions were posed to the people by telephone call, not at a regular meeting, but at a conference type call. In the first instance do you want to change representing of the Commission by reducing or increasing representation from different areas, etc. There was one yes and the balance were all no. In the next instance it was all yes. Next instance it was all yes, with the exception of one who was in the minority voted negative. Also on another question, do we want appointments to the Commission left to the Governor and this is yes. So all told the answers here are in concurrence with the Indians. I'm sure that this will help make a more effective and a better operating Indian Commission.

I move LB 174 be advanced to E & R for initial ... to adopt the amendment, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, I would like to have a question to Senator Burbach, if he'll yield. Senator Burbach, in my experience we have had problems with Indian representation for several reasons. I'm questioning the one part of your amendment that says that two members, representing a reservation, should be on the Executive Board. Don't you think it might be better, since we have three closed reservations in the State of Nebraska, Santee, Winnebago and Omaha, that in order to avoid any of these tensions and problems that we simply state three members representing the reservations and one member from each tribe, that'd be....?